

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board
Town Hall - Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Thursday, February 12, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Smith.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Anderson Hill, Betty Simpson, Cherie Smith, Ceel Spuhler, and Becky Werner.

Excused: Cindy Richardson and Lorrie Wolf.

Historical Advisor: Bill Grace

Town Council Liaison: Anita Cereceda

Town Staff: Alison Giesen

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 22, 2015

MOTION: Ms. Simpson moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Ms. Werner.

Clarification: Under Member's Items, Ms. Smith commented on the slick kayak ramp.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

V. MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Giesen reviewed rental rate options for the Mound House. Chair Hill questioned the term taxpayer. Ms. Giesen changed the term to Town of Fort Myers Beach property owner. Ms. Giesen clarified that after hours meant any time the Museum was not open to the public. She noted the information was included in the rental agreement. Discussion was held concerning wedding rates, base rates, after-hours noise, and nonprofit rental rates.

Ms. Giesen reported that a gate could be installed to close off the observation pier during educational tours. She noted that TDC grant funds amounted to \$278,306.00. Ms. Giesen stated that Velocity Engineering and the state historic preservation officer would meet with SEARCH at the end of February to discuss recommendations concerning stability and water intrusion. Discussion was held concerning recommendations in the Velocity Engineering report and the

existence of sump pumps. Ms. Giesen stated that the results of the Allied Indoor Environmental mold air samples indicated that levels were not elevated.

Ms. Giesen reviewed site logistics and discussed parking issues. She questioned the status of the Connecticut lot. She indicated she contacted the church and they stated they would permit special event parking at no charge except on Sundays before 1:00 p.m. or Wednesday evenings. Ms. Giesen discussed accommodating buses and she proposed moving the gate down the street and provide a cul-de-sac for people to turn around. She felt that the gate should have a code to provide access for kayakers and she felt that CDC would provide funds for the project. Discussion was held regarding options for buses and right-of-way issues. TDC

MOTION: Ms. Wolf moved to recommend that Ms. Giesen take the concept to Council and work on finalizing the idea with the hope of accommodating buses; second by Ms. Simpson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Giesen reviewed the entrance and visitor flow diagram. Discussion was held concerning the flow, height issues with the staircase, readjusting the gutter system, a showcase in the hallway outside the orientation room of merchandise available in the museum store, and adding a statement at the end of the orientation film that mentioned the museum store. Ms. Giesen noted that a camera had been installed in the underground exhibit. Ms. Giesen reviewed January numbers and she indicated that she would look into raising the kayak rates. She questioned where to spend the budget line item of \$1,500.00. Ms. Giesen reviewed upcoming events and tours. Ms. Giesen noted that a temporary person was hired and the position of museum associate was posted on the Town's website.

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Cereceda suggested that Ms. Giesen present an update to Council periodically. She informed CELCAB that 216 Connecticut was on a work session agenda and it would be helpful if residents attended to express their support.

VII. MOUND HOUSE MUSEUM EXHIBIT UPDATE

A) Timeline - VIP Opening

Ms. Giesen reported that she would have a better idea of a timeline in March and CELCAB was tasked with creating the VIP list. Ms. Giesen stated she would start the list.

B) SEARCH Site Visit - Installation of kiosk and repair of puzzle units

SEARCH will be in town February 23-27, 2015. Ms. Giesen stated that the SEARCH contract expired this summer and the negotiated amendment was favorable. She revealed that they had about \$12,000.00 extra plus credit for the botanical illustrations.

C) Calusa Room - Graphic panels and exhibit title

Ms. Giesen noted the new graphic artist was working on the Mound House logo colors and she would email the logo when she received it. She stated the graphic artist would do all the interior exhibit signage and exterior interpretive signs. Ms. Giesen indicated that they would finish on budget.

D) Post-Calusa Room - Graphic panels and exhibit title

Discussed.

E) Plant ID Signs - Layout with botanical illustrations

Discussed.

F) Orientation Video

Ms. Giesen asked for feedback concerning the story line. She stated that she would provide a draft of the outline. Chair Hill commented that the first printed brochure contained succinct information.

G) Exterior Interpretive Signs

Ms. Giesen reviewed site maps. She felt there were too many panels and she would rework the map.

H) Museum Store

Mayor Cereceda felt that at least \$25,000.00 was needed to set up the store. She suggested seeking donors for supplies needed to conduct business, so the budget could be used exclusively for inventory. Ms. Giesen pointed out that benches were needed ~~outside the orientation room~~. She noted they did have wicker furniture from the Long family. Discussion was held concerning benches, plaques, and possible locations for bench placement. Ms. Giesen indicated that furniture was needed for the porches upstairs and the galleries. Discussion was held concerning types of material and design. Mayor Cereceda suggested selling cards and books from the Historic Society. Discussion was held regarding inventory and local artists. Ms. Giesen stated she would research rights to use concerning the underground mural. Ms. Giesen discussed different types of window coverings and she indicated she would research options. Discussion was held concerning concrete floors, furniture, and the point of sale system previously purchased. Ms. Giesen indicated she would ~~return the point of sale system and~~ research a system that was more appropriate for their purpose.

on the
site
+ around
the house

cancel the
current

point of

sale system

POS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No member comments.

X. UPCOMING MEETING DATE - Thursday, February 26 at 2:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURN

MOTION: Ms. Simpson moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Adopted 3/25/15 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: Barbara Hill

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